

**Federal Election Commission**

**Re: Response of John Spratt for Congress Committee  
FEC ID Number C00155796**

The John Spratt for Congress Committee responds to the Complaint of the South Carolina Republican Party, dated September 16, 1998, as follows:

1. Paragraphs 1 and 2 are acknowledged and admitted.
2. Paragraphs 3 and 4 are admitted.
3. Paragraph 5 is denied. All signs purchased by the John Spratt for Congress Committee in this election properly display the authorization: "Paid for by Spratt for Congress Committee." All signs purchased by the John Spratt for Congress Committee in prior elections and still in use in this election also display the proper authorization, except, however, for one lot of yard signs and road signs purchased from Screen Art, Inc. in Greenville, South Carolina in the 1996 election. Some of these signs were distributed before the printer's omission of the authorization was discovered. When the omission was detected, Chris Cooper, Campaign Manager, called the Federal Election Commission for guidance, and was advised that the omission could be corrected by stamping an appropriate authorization on the face of the signs. This correction was made to all signs still in the campaign's possession, and whenever detected, to all signs that had already been distributed. At the conclusion of the 1996 election, a number of signs were recovered and stored for re-use in the next election. Some of these signs lacked the authorization label, and in storage, these signs were mixed with others bearing the authorization. When the used signs were retrieved, no one noticed or remembered that some lacked a proper authorization label. Following a complaint from the opposing campaign, Burkhold for Congress, which appeared in the press, the Spratt for Congress Committee began stamping those signs distributed without the authorization label. The Spratt for Congress Committee also purchased Avery labels, and after copying on the labels the appropriate authorization, affixed these labels to those signs that lacked the proper authorization. In addition, these labels are given to each person or team that goes out to post signs. They are requested to be on the look-out for signs that lack the proper statement of authorization and to correct the omission by attaching a label to the face of the sign.
4. Paragraphs 5 and 6 are denied. All yard and road signs purchased for this campaign bear the proper authorization. Approximately 100 yard signs and 30 road signs were recovered from the last election and re-issued in this election. Many of these bear the stamped authorization statement, which the FEC advised would be appropriate. Only a relatively small number of used signs have not

been stamped or labeled, and if any of these signs were distributed and posted, it was by oversight and negligence, and not in direct violation of the law.

5. The John Spratt for Congress Campaign confirms that all yard and road signs used in this election, and all prior elections, were purchased by the John Spratt for Congress Committee by a disbursement of campaign funds that was duly itemized and reported to the Federal Election Commission.

WHEREFORE, having fully answered the Complaint, the John Spratt for Congress Committee submits:

(1) Any departure from federal election campaign finance rules and regulations was inadvertent and unintentional, and resulted from an error of the firm hired by the John Spratt for Congress Committee to print campaign signs in the 1996 election.

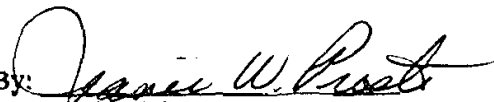
(2) When the printer's error was discovered, timely and reasonable efforts were taken to correct the omission by the John Spratt for Congress Committee. Diligent efforts are being taken to locate and correct any unlabeled signs leftover from the 1996 election that were inadvertently distributed in this election.

(3) All signs purchased by the John Spratt for Congress Committee in this election bear the proper authorization.

(4) No intentional or significant violation of the rules and regulations of the Federal Election Commission has occurred; and no action is required to deter future violations. The Complaint should, therefore, be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

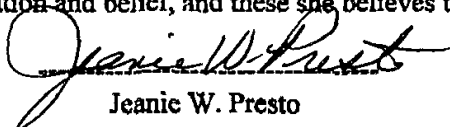
John Spratt for Congress Committee

By:   
Jeanie W. Presto  
Associate Treasurer and Finance Director

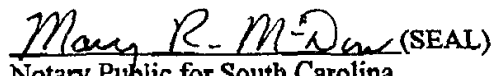
State of South Carolina )  
County of York )

Verification

PERSONALLY appeared before me, *Jeanie W. Presto*, who being duly sworn, deposes and states that she is Associate Treasurer and Finance Director of the John Spratt for Congress Committee; that she has read the foregoing Response of the John Spratt for Congress Committee, and that the matters alleged in the Response are true and complete, except for those matters alleged on the basis of information and belief, and these she believes to be true.

  
Jeanie W. Presto

Sworn and subscribed to  
before me this 10<sup>th</sup> day  
of October, 1998

 (SEAL)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
Commission expires: 12/27/2000

1998 Order Proof

Bring to the attention of: JEANIE PRESTO

QUANTITY: 5000 14x22  
300 32x48

14x22 and 32x48



Please sign and return via fax (864-269-7075) to approve concept layout and color specifications.  
If changes need to be made please call (864) 269-7189. Thank you.

Approved by:

Authorized Signature

*Jeanie Presto*

FAX TRANSMISSION LAYOUT APPROVAL SHEET

PMS RED

Screen Art

5th page

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P.01

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